

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6-33, 40 and 46-47.

Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

1 2. (Thrice Amended) An isolated genetic construct which is capable of delaying, repressing or otherwise reducing the expression of a target gene in an animal cell which is transfected with said genetic construct, wherein said genetic construct comprises at least two copies of a structural gene sequence, wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence which is substantially identical to at least a region of said target gene, and wherein said at least two copies of said structural gene sequence are placed operably under the control of a single promoter sequence which is operable in said cell, wherein at least one copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the sense orientation under the control of said promoter sequence.

2 2. (Thrice Amended) An isolated genetic construct which is capable of delaying, repressing or otherwise reducing the expression of a target gene in an animal cell which is transfected with said genetic construct, wherein said genetic construct comprises at least two copies of a structural gene sequence wherein each copy of said structural gene sequence is separately placed under the control of a promoter which is operable in said cell, and wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence which is substantially identical to at least a region of said target gene, wherein at least one copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the sense orientation under the control of an individual promoter sequence.

3 3 3. (Twice Amended) An isolated genetic construct which is capable of delaying, repressing or otherwise reducing the expression of a target gene in an animal cell which is transfected with said genetic construct, wherein said genetic construct comprises at least two

copies of a structural gene sequence, wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence which is substantially identical to at least a region of said target gene, and wherein said at least two copies of said structural gene sequence are placed operably under the control of a single promoter sequence which is operable in said cell, wherein at least one copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the sense orientation under the control of said promoter sequence and wherein at least one other copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the antisense orientation under the control of said promoter sequence.

4 ~~35.~~ (Twice Amended) An isolated genetic construct which is capable of delaying, repressing or otherwise reducing the expression of a target gene in an animal cell which is transfected with said genetic construct, wherein said genetic construct comprises at least two copies of a structural gene sequence and each copy of said structural gene sequence is separately placed under the control of a promoter which is operable in said cell, and wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence which is substantially identical to at least a region of said target gene, wherein at least one copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the sense orientation under the control of an individual promoter sequence, and wherein at least one other copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the antisense orientation under the control of another individual promoter sequence.

5 ~~36.~~ (Twice Amended) An isolated genetic construct which is capable of delaying, repressing or otherwise reducing the expression of a target gene in an animal cell which is transfected with said genetic construct, wherein said genetic construct comprises at least two copies of a structural gene sequence, wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence which is substantially identical to at least a region of said target gene, and wherein said at least two copies of said structural gene sequence are placed operably under the

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control of a single promoter sequence which is operable in said cell, wherein at least one copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the sense orientation under the control of said promoter sequence, wherein at least one other copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the antisense orientation under the control of said promoter sequence, and wherein said at least one copy of said structural gene sequence that is placed in the sense orientation relative to said promoter and said at least one copy of said structural gene sequence that is placed in the antisense orientation relative to said promoter are spaced from each other by a nucleic acid stuffer fragment.

6 6 3 58. (Twice Amended) An animal cell comprising the genetic construct of any one of claims 2-3 or 34-36.

7 7 41. (Twice Amended) A method of delaying or repressing the expression of a target gene in an animal cell, comprising transfecting said animal cell with a genetic construct, wherein said genetic construct comprises at least two copies of a structural gene sequence, wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence which is substantially identical to at least a region of said target gene, and wherein said at least two copies of said structural gene sequence are placed operably under the control of a single promoter sequence which is operable in said cell, wherein at least one copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the sense orientation under the control of said promoter sequence.

8 8 42. (Amended) The method according to claim 41, wherein at least one other copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the antisense orientation under the control of said promoter sequence.

9 9 43. (Amended) The method according to claim 42, wherein said copy of said structural gene sequence that is placed in the sense orientation relative to said promoter and said

copy of said structural gene sequence that is placed in the antisense orientation relative to said promoter are spaced from each other by a nucleic acid stuffer fragment.

10 45. (Twice Amended) A method of delaying or repressing the expression of a target gene in an animal cell, comprising expressing in said animal cell a genetic construct, wherein said genetic construct comprises at least two copies of a structural gene sequence, wherein each copy of said structural gene sequence is separately placed under the control of a promoter which is operable in said cell, and wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence which is substantially identical to at least a region of said target gene, wherein at least one copy of said structural gene sequence is placed operably in the sense orientation under the control of an individual promoter sequence.

11 48. (Amended) The isolated genetic construct according to any one of claims 2, 3 or 34-36 wherein said region of the target gene is 20 to 30 nucleotides long.
12 49. (Amended) A method according to any one of claims 41-43 or 45 wherein said region of the target gene is 20 to 30 nucleotides long.

Please add the following claims:

13 13 50. The isolated genetic construct according to any one of claims 2, 3 or 34-36, comprising two copies of said structural gene sequence.

14 51. The isolated genetic construct according to any one of claims 2, 3 or 34-36, wherein said region of the target gene is at least 30 nucleotides long.

52. The isolated genetic construct according to any one of claims 2, 3 or 34-36, wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 80% identical to said region of said target gene.

53. The isolated genetic construct according to any one of claims 2, 3 or 34-36, wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 90% identical to said region of said target gene.

15 15 54. The isolated genetic construct according to any one of claims 2, 3 or 34-36, wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence that is identical to said region of said target gene.

16 16-55. The method according to any one of claims 41-43 or 45, wherein said genetic construct comprises two copies of said structural gene sequence.

17 17-56. The method according to any one of claims 41-43 or 45, wherein said region of the target gene is at least 30 nucleotides long.

57. The method according to any one of claims 41-43 or 45, wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 80% identical to said region of said target gene.

58. The method according to any one of claims 41-43 or 45, wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 90% identical to said region of said target gene.

18 18-59. The method according to any one of claims 41-43 or 45, wherein said structural gene sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence that is identical to said region of said target gene.

19 19-60. An animal cell comprising the genetic construct according to claim 48.

20 20-61. An animal cell comprising the genetic construct according to claim 50.

21 21-62. An animal cell comprising the genetic construct according to claim 51.

63. An animal cell comprising the genetic construct according to claim 52.